years. At present, however, no specific proposals are udner Government's consideration.

Proposal for Export of Edible Oil

698. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export endible oils during the current financial year;

(b) whether all varieties of edible oil have been included in the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the edible oil which have not been considered in the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs upto 5 Kg. is now freely allowed.

Import of Coal from foreign Countries by Tamil Nadu Government

699. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu Government have recently imported coal from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and to what extent coal has been imported and is likely to be imported in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Tamilnadu Electricity Board has imported 2.30 lakh tonnes of coal during Aug-Sept'.93. Tamilnadu Government have intimated that there is no proposal to import coal in the near future.

700. *[Transferred to 8th March,* 1994].

Proposal to allow export Oriented units to import tea

701. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow export oriented units to import tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have studied the likely impact of such a move on Indian Tea Industry and the tea growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Import of tea is allowed only to Export Oriented Units and units in Export Processing Zones for re-exports only after blending with Indian teas. While allowing such imports adequate safeguards have been taken by the Govt. to ensure that such imports do not affect the domestic tea industry and also the image of Indian tea in the World market.

(c) Under the scheme which deals with Export Oriented Units, permission is given to import tea for blending with Indian tea for export. This scheme prescribes a minimum of 40% of value addition to be achieved by such enterprises and also stipulates that the Tea Board logo which symbolises pure Indian tea is not to be used in such cases. It also prescribes tea to be exported only in small packets and not in bulk with a view to promoting export of value added teas. These units are not allowed any domestic sale in order to ensure that there is no adverse effect on